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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Cottbus

EVALUATION see below

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Date October to 18 December 1951

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REPAIRED

9 January 1952

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. From 10 to 16 December 1951, the Sachsendorf Kaserne on Jahnstrasse, Cottbus (N 52/A 57), was occupied to capacity by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets and were engaged in close-order drill and fatigue duty.

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2. Between 10 and 16 December, the Alvensleben Kaserne on Karl Liebknecht Strasse was occupied to capacity by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, primarily with artillery insignia. Artillery drill with four 122-mm guns and several light 57-mm AT guns was noticed. Between 28 November and 2 December, from 1,500 to 2,000 soldiers, including personnel of all ranks who returned from furlough and major shipments of recruits, arrived at Cottbus by rail, marched to the Alvensleben Kaserne and were subsequently seen going to the Hermann Loens Kaserne and the Sachsendorf Kaserne.

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3. Between 18 November and 12 December, the Hermann Loens Kaserne on Hermann Loens Strasse was occupied to capacity by a tank unit and a tank repair shop. Seven T-34/85 tanks, and an armored vehicle of undetermined type were noticed in the billeting area. Four 37-mm AA guns were emplaced near the installation, and four T-34/85 tanks were repeatedly observed at driving practice in the nearby training area. A unit headquarters was located in a block of buildings on Fontane Platz opposite the Hermann Loens Kaserne.

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4. On 2 December, a radio truck with extended antenna was seen in the billeting area of the Funker Kaserne on Pappe Alley.

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5. A train, which passed through the Cottbus railroad station at 5:20 a.m. on 4 December, coming from the direction of Leipzig and proceeding eastward, carried 36 trucks with hoisting gear. This same type of truck has been repeatedly noticed with Soviet engineer units.

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6. On 18 December, the Hermann Loens Kaserne quartered about 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. One J3 tank was seen in the area southeast of the installation on 25 November, and one T-34 tank in the billeting area on 2 December.

7. On 18 December, the Sachsendorf Kaserne quartered about 2,500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Many officers, some of them wearing artillery insignia, were seen at the main gate.

8. On 9 December, the Alvensleben Kaserne quartered about 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. About 50 percent of the quarters were lighted on the evening of 8 December. A unit of 2 officers and 60 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets was seen marching to the cultural activities' building on August Rebel Strasse on 9 December. A resident of Cottbus said that on 25 November 60 NCOs from the Alvensleben Kaserne had been sent home for discharge upon completion of their active term of service.

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9. In early November, a German employee in the Hermann Loens Kaserne said that the pay for NCOs and EM had been cut by 50 percent. The pay of privates for example, amounted to only 35 eastmarks.
10. At the end of October, the military renounced its claim to buildings near the Cottbus police court building. It had been planned to house a military court in them.

Comments.

- (1) repeatedly estimated the number of troops in the Sachsendorf Kaserne at 2,000 to 2,500 men in 1950. According to the present and previous reports the installation is believed to quarter the 70th Mecz Regt and components of the 692d How Arty Regt and/or the 1719th AAA Regt of the 9th Mecz Div. See
- (2) The artillery pieces mentioned in paragraph 2 confirm the presence of the bulk of the 692d How Arty Regt of the 9th Mecz Div in the Alvensleben Kaserne. See
- (3) According to the present and previous reports, the Hermann Loens Kaserne is believed to house the Hq 9th Mecz Div, components of the 91st Tank Regt, the bulk of which is carried in Luebben, and a tank repair shop.
- (4) According to previous information, components of the 1719th AAA Regt are carried in the Furker Kaserne. However, the regiment has not been confirmed there since the spring of 1951.

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